



## MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

2609768

**Description of proposal:** "Blowder Ridge" timber sale Application #30-083194 and attached Forest Practice application # is a two unit timber harvest proposal located in the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF). The estimated timber volume removal for this proposal is 9,191 mbf, encompassing approximately 162 acres of harvest.

**Description of mitigation:** The following Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) procedures apply:

Northern Spotted Owl: This proposal is classified as non habitat for spotted owls and is over the 50 years of age and will be subject to the acreage limits. PR-14-004-120

Approximately 3 acres of Unit 2 are located within the best 70 acres of the Status 1 Clallam River NSO circle. Operations within this area will be restricted during the period of March 1 thru August 31.

Marbled Murrelet: The sale area was determined to be non- murrelet habitat by the OESF interim marbled murrelet strategy.

Slope Stability: The statewide landslide inventory (LSI) screening tool indicates the presence of polygons mapped as landslides adjacent to, slightly overlapping, and within the proposed harvest unit boundary of the Blowder Ridge Timber Sale. Landslide hazard zonation (LHZ) has also been completed in the area of the proposed timber sale. The LHZ indicates one area where the timber sale boundary crossed an area mapped as high hazard.

A State Lands slope stability specialist conducted a remote and field review of LSI mapped landslides with the unique identification numbers 41793 and 41795. Both are mapped as deep-seated landslides. Landslide 41793 is mapped with a probable certainty and is located along the southwest edge of unit 2 and landslide 41795 is mapped with a questionable certainty in the middle of unit 2. On the map, the southwest boundary of unit 2 and the east flank of the mapped landslide slightly overlap. In the field, the timber sale boundary slightly overlaps the east flank of the mapped landslide. No signs of slope movement were observed and slope gradients on the flank in this area ranged from 40 to 50 percent indicating the area is not an active flank of a landslide.

Landslide 41795, the questionable landslide mapped in the middle of unit 2, is a dormant-indistinct deep-seated landslide. In the field, a main scarp and intermediate benches are present as well as areas that appear to be remnant sag ponds. Slope gradients on the main scarp exceed 70 percent in some places, however there is a low risk of delivery potential to public resources or threat to public safety from shallow slope failures originating on the main scarp. This landslide was reviewed in the field from main scarp to toe and no signs of recent large-scale deep-seated movement were present.

The area which was indicated on the LHZ as high hazard is along the west edge of unit 1 where the upper end of a mapped probable inner gorge is located. This area was reviewed in the field by a State Lands slope stability specialist and the location where the timber sale unit boundary crosses the mapped high hazard area is broadly convergent and approximately 60 percent with no indicators of slope instability. The overlapping boundaries are thought to be the result of the resolution of the mapping. In the field, the timber sale boundary excludes high hazard landforms.

Based on remote and field review, the timber sale boundaries have a low risk of impacting slope stability and a low risk of delivering sediment or debris to public resources in the locations indicated above. Due to the harvest unit boundary avoiding high hazard slopes associated with the LSI and LHZ mapped features, no further investigation was determined to be necessary.

Riparian and/or Wetland Management Zones (RMZ/WMZ):

This proposal has 6 Type 5 streams, 10 Type 4 streams and 7 Type 3 streams associated with it. The Type 3 streams have been protected with an estimated 50-75 foot interior core and a 150 foot wind buffers. The Type 4 streams have been protected with an estimated 20-30 foot interior core and 50 foot wind buffers. The Type 5 streams have been protected with variable width retention buffers. No harvest will occur within these riparian buffers.

Retention Trees: Retaining a minimum of eight trees per acre in the proposal area provides legacy elements for recruitment of future snags, coarse woody debris, multi-layered stands and large diameter trees. Unit 1 has 525 clumped retention trees and 298 individually marked retention trees. Unit 2 has 181 clumped retention trees and 352 individually marked retention trees.

Roads: Approximately 4,695 feet of new optional road construction, 14,210 feet of reconstruction and 10,349 feet of pre-haul maintenance is planned for this sale. Road construction operations will be restricted during wet weather when rutting and soil displacement may occur. Rock for these roads will come from the DNR's Mary Clark pit, Sappho Access Pit, Ridges Pit and P-1600 Pit or from an approved commercial source.

**Proponent:** Department of Natural Resources – Olympic Region

**Location of proposal, including street address, if any:** This proposal is located approximately 9.5 miles southwest of Clallam Bay off the P-1600 road system. It is in Sections 5,6, and 7 Twp. 31N, Rge.12 & Sec 2, 12 T31N, Rge 13W W.M..

**Lead agency:** Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

**|| There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.**

**X This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from March 10, 2009. Comments must be submitted by March 24, 2009**

**Responsible official:** John X. Viada  
**Position/title:** Olympic Region – Region Manager  
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**Date:** 3-2-09

**Signature:** John X Viada

**There is no agency SEPA appeal.**  
11/09/00